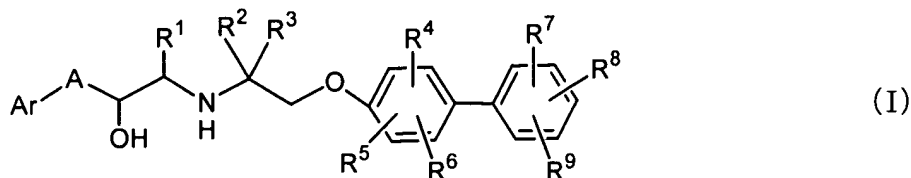


CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by general formula (I):



a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein

5 R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
each of R^2 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom or a
lower alkyl group;

each of R^4 , R^5 and R^6 is independently a hydrogen atom,
a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group;

10 R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group,
a lower alkoxy group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl
group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, an aralkyloxy group,
a heteroaryl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group,
15 a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a cyclic amino group, a di(lower
alkyl)amino-lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower
alkylsulfanyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a carboxy group,
a lower alkoxy carbonyl group or an aralkyloxy carbonyl group,
or R^7 and R^8 are bonded together to form $-OCH_2O-$ or $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$;

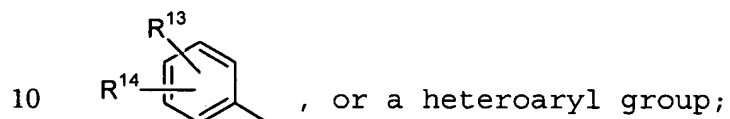
20 R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group,
a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy
group, a lower alkoxy group, a cyano group, a lower alkylsulfonyl
group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, $-COR^{10}$, $-A^1-COR^{10}$, or
-O-A²-COR¹⁰;

R^{10} is a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group or $-NR^{11}R^{12}$,
 each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom, a
 lower alkyl group, a carboxy-lower alkyl group or a lower
 alkoxy-carbonyl-lower alkyl group, or R^{11} and R^{12} , together with
 5 the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a cyclic amine;

A^1 is a lower alkylene group or a lower alkenylene group;

A^2 is a lower alkylene group;

Ar is a group represented by a formula:



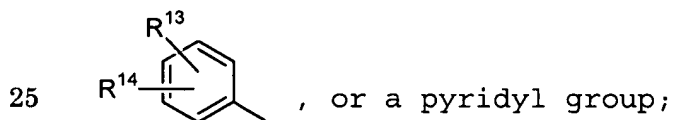
each of R^{13} and R^{14} is independently a hydrogen atom, a
 halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group,
 a lower alkoxy group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino
 group or a lower acylamino group, or when R^{13} and R^{14} are adjacent
 15 each other, then R^{13} and R^{14} are bonded together to form a group
 represented by $-NH-C(O)-NH-$, provided that when one of R^{13} and
 R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, then the other is not a hydroxy group;
 and

A is a bond, $-OCH_2-$ or $-SCH_2-$.

20

2. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
 acceptable salt thereof, wherein

Ar is a group represented by a formula:

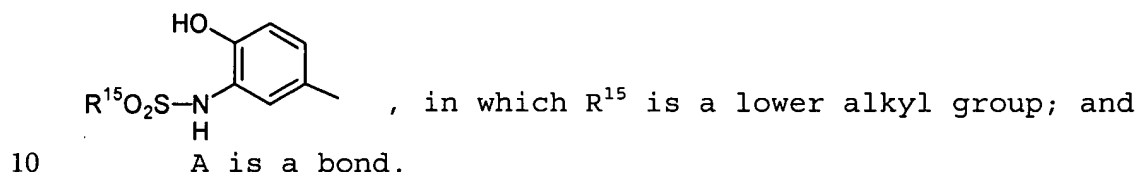


each of R^{13} and R^{14} is independently a hydrogen atom, a
 halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group

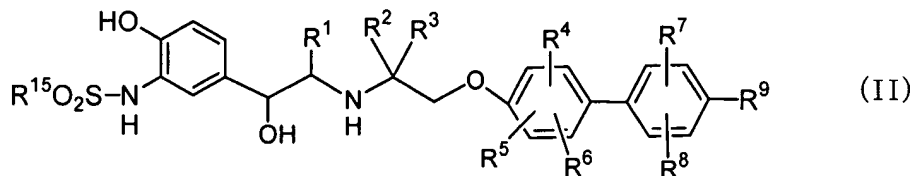
or a lower acylamino group, or when R^{13} and R^{14} are adjacent each other, then R^{13} and R^{14} are bonded together to form a group represented by $-NH-C(O)-NH-$.

- 5 3. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

Ar is a group represented by a formula:



4. A compound represented by general formula (II):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

- R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- 15 each of R^2 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- each of R^4 , R^5 and R^6 is independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group;
- R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- 20 R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a carboxy group, or a lower alkoxycarbonyl group;
- R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy

group, a lower alkoxy group, a cyano group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, $-\text{COR}^{10}$, $-\text{A}^1-\text{COR}^{10}$, or $-\text{O}-\text{A}^2-\text{COR}^{10}$;

R^{10} is a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group or $-\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$;

5 each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a carboxy-lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxycarbonyl-lower alkyl group, or R^{11} and R^{12} , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a cyclic amine;

A^1 is a lower alkylene group or a lower alkenylene group;

10 A^2 is a lower alkylene group; and

R^{15} is a lower alkyl group.

5. The compound according to claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

15 R^9 is $-\text{COR}^{10}$, or $-\text{OCH}_2\text{COR}^{10}$; and

R^{10} is a hydroxy group or a lower alkoxy group.

6. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein at least one of R^2 and R^3 is
20 a hydrogen atom.

7. The compound according to claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^2 and R^3 are a hydrogen atom.

25 8. The compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

each of R^4 and R^5 is independently a hydrogen atom or a

lower alkyl group; and R⁶ is a lower alkyl group.

9. The compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

5 R⁴ is a hydrogen atom; and
each of R⁵ and R⁶ is independently a lower alkyl group.

10. The compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

10 R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are a hydrogen atom; and
R⁸ is a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, or a di(lower alkyl)amino group.

11. The compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

15 R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are a hydrogen atom; and
R⁸ is a lower alkyl group.

12. The compound according to claim 1, a lower alkyl ester thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, selected from the group consisting of

4' - {2 - [(1S, 2R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methane-sulfonylaminophenyl) - 1-methylethylamino]ethoxy} - 3', 5' - dimethylbiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

25 4' - {2 - [(1S, 2R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methane-sulfonylaminophenyl) - 1-methylethylamino]ethoxy}biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

43

4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonyl-aminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} - 2', 6' - dimethylbiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

5 4' - {2 - [(1S, 2R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) - 1-methylethylamino] ethoxy} - 3', 5' - dimethylbiphenyl-4-yloxy) acetic acid;

4' - {2 - [(1S, 2R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) - 1-methylethylamino] ethoxy} - 2', 6' - dimethylbiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

10 4' - {2 - [(1S, 2R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) - 1-methylethylamino] ethoxy} - 2', 6' - dimethylbiphenyl-4-yloxy) acetic acid;

4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} - 2-methylbiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

15 4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} biphenyl-3, 4-dicarboxylic acid;

20 3 - (N, N-dimethylamino) - 4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} - biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

3-ethoxy-4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

25 4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-2 - (4-hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylaminophenyl) ethylamino] ethoxy} biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid;

7 4' - {2 - [(R) - 2-hydroxy-3 - (2-oxo-2, 3-dihydro-1H-

benzimidazol-4-yloxy)propylamino]ethoxy}-3',5'-dimethyl-
biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid; and

4'-{2-[(R)-2-hydroxy-3-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-
benzimidazol-4-yloxy)propylamino]ethoxy}-3-isopropyl-3',5'-
5 dimethylbiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid.

13. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises, as an active
ingredient, a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10

14. A therapeutic or prophylactic agent for obesity, diabetes
mellitus, hyperlipidemia, depression, urinary dysfunctions,
diseases caused by biliary calculus or biliary tract
hypermotility, or diseases caused by intestinal hypermotility,
15 which comprises, as an active ingredient, a compound according
to any one of claims 1 to 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical combination comprising a compound
20 according to any one of claims 1 to 12 or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof and at least one selected from the group
consisting of an antiobesity agent, an antidiabetic agent, a
hypolipidemic agent and a therapeutic agent for urinary
dysfunctions other than a β 3-adrenoceptor agonist.

25

16. A use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to
12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the

manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing obesity,
diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, depression, urinary
dysfunctions, diseases caused by biliary calculus or biliary
tract hypermotility, or diseases caused by intestinal
5 hypermotility.

17. A method for treating or preventing obesity, diabetes
mellitus, hyperlipidemia, depression, urinary dysfunctions,
diseases caused by biliary calculus or biliary tract
10 hypermotility, or diseases caused by intestinal hypermotility,
which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound
according to any one of claims 1 to 12 or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof.